

# "DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA"



MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE "CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY"  
P.O. BOX 2445, BISMARCK, ND 58502 - 2445  
SERVING: BISMARCK, MANDAN, AND SURROUNDING AREAS IN NORTH DAKOTA

DIGGINS FROM DAKOTA  
Jim Ellis Editor  
3235 16 St. S.W.  
CENTER N.D.  
58530

Volume 34, No.10 November-December 1999

RMFMS - 1st Place, Small Bulletins, 1998  
RMFMS - 3rd Place, Small Bulletins, 1997, New Editor  
RMFMS - 2nd Place, Small Bulletins, 1992  
RMFMS - 2nd Place, Small Bulletins, 1987  
AFMS - 2nd Place, Small Bulletins, 1985  
RMFMS - 4th Place, Small Bulletins, 1985  
RMFMS - 2nd Place, Small Bulletins, 1981



# DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA

Published by: The "Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society"  
P. O. Box 2445, Bismarck, ND 58502 - 2445



In Association With:

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Organized: March, 1966

## OBJECTIVES

1. To further the study of mineralogy and geology.
2. To arrange field trips to collect minerals, gems, and fossils.
3. To assist its members to improve in the art of cutting, polishing, and mounting gem materials;
4. To provide opportunities for the exchange, purchase, and exhibition of specimens and materials;
5. To share knowledge about gems, minerals, and activities of the Society with the general public.

— Article II, CDGMS Constitution

MEETINGS: First Sunday of each month at the Masonic Center, 1810 Schafer St., Bismarck, ND

EARLY CLASS: One - half hour before each meeting.

ANNUAL DUES: Junior Member - \$6.00, Single Membership - \$10.00, Family Membership - \$12.00

MEETING TIMES: 2:00 PM — From November thru March & 7:00 PM — From April thru October

## COMMITTEE PERSONS

PROGRAM: Neill Burnett #223-6758

Jim Nevland #221-2419

HOSPITALITY Carol Hickle #794-3342

and LUNCH: Emma Brady #663-3903

HOSPITAL/CARDS: Gen Buresh #663-5397

FIELD TRIPS: Steve & Darlene Newstrom #255-4675

EDITOR: Jim Ellis #794-3192

ANNUAL SHOW: Debra Martineson

EARLY CLASS: Harold Brady #663-3903

GREETER: Any Volunteers?

Parliamentarian: Gen Buresh #663-5397

STAMP CHAIR: Doris Hickle #794-3173

LIBRARIAN: Agnes Berg #442-5620

PUBLICITY: Any Volunteers?

HISTORIAN: Betty Mautz #337-5775

DOOR COUNT: Any Volunteers?

**VISITORS AND GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME !**

RMFMS State Director for North Dakota: Ray Oliger, 516 N. 20th St., Bismarck, ND #701-223-4986

All members are encouraged to submit articles/news items for publication. Material for the Newsletter should reach the Editor by the 10th of each month. Advertisements are encouraged for the Newsletter. (\$2.00 for 1/8 of a page per month or \$20.00 per year) Permission is granted to reprint non-copyrighted articles if proper credit is given. The "Diggins From Dakota" Newsletter is published monthly.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well! We did it again. The meeting on Fluorescence was a great success. I hope everyone learned something new. After all, that is what it is all about. Once again, our members came through with all of their rocks and instruments. I think it is so much more fun and educational when we have extensive member participation in our monthly meetings. More on this below when we discuss future programs.

And now let us review our schedule for the next few months:

- 5 December 1999 - This will be our annual Christmas Brunch. ***This is new - so pay attention***. Our Brunch will now be in the CHAMBER/CONGRESS room of the Bismarck Best Western Doublewood Inn at 12:30 PM (that is 1230 Hours for you Internationally minded). It will be Buffet, with several items of choice. We will need to have a good handle on the attendance, so please plan on coming.
- \* Sunday 9 January 2000 - **WOW** - If we make it past Y2K we will have a meeting on Paleontology. I am proposing that we skip 2 January since it is the day after New Years. More later. I think this is appropriate since our last meeting would have been in the last Century. No!!! That is not correct. This is not the last year of the Twentieth Century. The last year of the Twentieth Century is the year 2000. The new Century and the new Millennium actually does not start until 1 January 2001.
- Sunday, 6 February 2000 - Remember, our meetings start with an early class at 1:30 with our meeting starting at 2:00 PM. **PAY ATTENTION NOW** - We will have a ***Junior Rock Hound Afternoon***. All Junior Rock Hounds will be expected to show us their favorite rock or collection, and to tell us what **they** would like to learn more about. So Parents!!!! Encourage your youth to plan ahead, come in February, and let us find out how we can all benefit from passing our knowledge and experience on to our youth and finding out more about what interests them.
- Sunday, 5 March 2000 - We will plan on another member silent auction. This is an opportunity to exchange equipment and specimens, and on top of that, it earns money for our Club. More Later.

Yours in Rocks,  
Your President,

Neill C Burnett

Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society  
Minutes From November 7, 1999

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by president Neill Burnett and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Guests present were S. Gerenz and 3 of her children. The next meeting will be on Sunday, December 5, 1999 at 12:00 noon in the Chamber of Commerce room at the Best Western Double Wood Inn for our annual Christmas dinner. The January meeting will be at 1:30 PM for early class and 2:00 PM for the meeting at the Masonic Temple. The program will be Paleo Talk.

The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved. There was no treasurers report as the treasurer was off to the Rocky Mountain Federation Show and Convention in Tucson, AZ.

Committees: NTR

Old Business: NTR

New Business: NTR

The adult door prize was won by Emma Brady and the Junior door prize was won by Matthew Gerenz.

The Meeting was adjourned and the Program on Flourescents was a great success.

Respectfully submitted

Russell Oliger, Secretary

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## Birthdays

### November

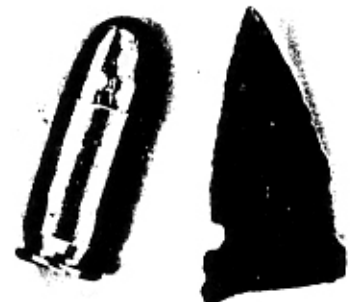
4-Terral Zittelman  
8-Rodney Hickie  
9-Dr. Gordon Bell  
26-Neill C. Burnett  
28-Walter Weisenburger  
28-Tony Huber

### December

15-Betty Mautz  
26- Julie Liffbrig  
31-Gwen Brady



Your editor misplaced the wedding anniversary list. Please send the date of your wedding to: Jim Ellis, Editor, Diggins from Dakota, 3235 16 St. S.W. CENTER, N.D. 58530



## Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society

Minutes From December 5, 1999

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society was called to order by President Neill Burnett at the Best Western Ramada Chamber Banquet Room. The meeting was preceded by our annual Christmas dinner, which was an outstanding buffet. The next meeting will be on Sunday, January 9, 2000 at the Masonic Center. Early Class at 1:30, Regular Meeting at 2:00 PM. The scheduled program will be on Paleontology and will be presented by John Hoganson, N.D. State Paleontologist. The February meeting will be the Junior Rockhounds (Pebble Pups) who will bring in there collections for show and tell, adult members are asked to bring in specimens to share with the junior members. There is a good way to pass on some of the excess material to someone just getting started. Our March meeting is our annual silent auction so start getting your rocks, gems, minerals, fossils and anything else you want to sell ready.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved with one correction, the Masonic Center was incorrectly identified as the Masonic Temple.

The Treasurer reported and beginning balance of \$297.00 with expenditures of \$88.00 for insurance and \$107.00 for Federation Dues, leaving us with a balance of \$107.00.

### Committees:

Nominating committee was formed, Members are Bob Randall, Chairman; Duane Robey and Betty Mautz, members. Their recommendations will be announced at the January meeting followed by election of officers for the year 2000.

One of our longtime members, Gen Buresh, has moved again. She is now residing at Edgewood Vista; 3406 Dominion St., Bismarck, ND 58502. Ph: (701) 258-8164

Some of our other members, Bob and Rae Sprong, whom we don't get to see very often said to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

For those of you who have not paid your 2000 dues yet, **Dues are Due.**

Respectfully Submitted

Russell Oliger, Secretary

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# VROOM! VROOM! SCREECH!

By Mel Albright, AFMS Safety Chairman

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How much time saved on a trip is worth your life? Or the life of a member of your family? One second? Two? A minute? Five minutes? An hour? Any amount of time?

I'll bet that almost every person would answer that there was no time saving worth risking a life. And, I'll bet that well over half of you have done so in the last month.

You want to turn right from a store lot. There's lots of traffic. You get more and more impatient. Finally you see a little space and "vroom vroom screech" you shoot into the driving lane. One and 1/2 seconds later, an oncoming car passes the store lot exit where you were. Behind that car there is no traffic for several blocks. Congratulations, you just saved one and 1/2 seconds -and bet your life that nothing would go wrong - your car might stall, the oncoming car was going faster than you thought, another driver turns left from across the street, someone changes lanes - strange unplanned things happen. So, are those 1 and 1/2 seconds worth a life - yours?

How about a left turn from a shopping lot or a side street? Have you ever zoomed through a small hole in traffic - again risking your life? In these situations, you'll save 5 to 10 seconds. Is your life worth that saving?

It is rush hour. You are driving down a four-lane city street. The car ahead slows for a turn. You immediately change lanes to go around them. Oops - that car was in my blind spot. But he doesn't need to honk like that. I was just saving a little time - 15 to 30 seconds.

It is rush hour. Traffic on the freeway (or highway) is heavy. And some of those idiots are driving only at the speed limit. First you tailgate the idiot to show that you're in a hurry and they should get out of the way. When that doesn't work, you change lanes and accelerate around them. You continue driving like this all through your commute - left-right-left-right-left-right. In a small city, you have saved 3 minutes when you get home. In a major city, you have saved 10 or 15 minutes.

You have bet your life and risked an accident 8 times during that drive. You bet your life to save a few minutes. Was that a good swap?

Trip time. You're going across country. The freeway speed limits are 60 near cities and 70 in the country. But, you have a long ways to go. Seventy in town and 80 or 85 in the country will get your trip over sooner. (If nothing goes wrong.) On a 400-mile trip you'll save an hour at 85 instead of 70 - unless you get stuck behind slower traffic occasionally. You'll have 11 close calls while dodging and weaving through traffic. Uh - how good are your tires? Is the hour saved worth your life - or your family's?

The car-pool mom does all the above, too. Often they go to excess because they always feel rushed and pressed for time. These days, the whole world seems impatient. We all want instant satisfaction. We're always pressing to make what we're doing go faster.

Perhaps it is time that we put some brainwork into what we are doing and not bet our own and our family's lives to save a little time. NO amount of time saved is worth it!

From AFMS Newsletter Nov. 1999

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## GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, and MYRRH

Of this Christmas phrase, gold is familiar to us, but what about the other two?

Frankincense comes from the resin of a desert tree, *Boswellia carterii*, found in arid parts of Arabia, Somalia, and India. Scientists believe that the tree was imported into Israel, and its fragrance cultivated near the Dead Sea in the royal gardens of Judea.

Myrrh was more common in ancient Israel, but an expensive item, nonetheless. It, too, comes from a tree, *Commiphora myrrha*, which is native to Arabia, Ethiopia, and Somalia. Myrrh was pulverized and then used as an important ingredient in holy ointments. The wealthy also wore small bags of myrrh around their necks, carrying the fragrance with them. (excerpted from *Royal Neighbor Magazine* 11/12/97, via *The Geode* 12/98)

via Pegmatite 12/1999



## THE PERFECT? LIGHT-WEIGHT FIRST AID KIT

Chris Rylands - Bellevue, WA

[Recently, the rockhound e-mail exchange group had an interesting discussion. It started when Chris Rylands (BRIOA@aol.com) attempted to describe the perfect light-weight first aid kit. Mel Albright, Chair, Safety]

The idea of this kit is that the kit is small and lightweight but yet an all around life saver.

- One of those blue plastic **eye cups** if you need to wash out your eye, and an **eye patch** and **eye ointment** for infections. Most rockhounds do not bother using their eye protection.
- **Water purification tablets**, cheapest, or one of those fancy pocket water purifiers if you are in a mineral rich area, with springs or flooded mines.
- Hmm. Nice Vug, Lost your footing, AAAAAAAA!!! WHAM!!! Roll of black tape (**Electrician's tape**) it is elastic, waterproof, and air tight. Can be used for things like splinting, arm slings, tourniquets.
- I hear the plane and can see it but they cannot see me, no wood or too wet to start a the smoking fire. Go to the local boat supply for **orange smoke pots**. Not flare guns, unless you want to burn to death in the forest, or be on CNN as the most stupid of all time rescues.
- Water out of sand: For you Desert rock-hounders, **2 dark green thick jumbo plastic garbage bags**, one 3 foot 1/4" plastic fish tank hose. First dig a 3 ft x 2 ft deep hole. Place one bag in the bottom center of the hole, shape it as a cup. Lay the plastic suction tube in the cup bottom and up and out of the hole. Now cover the hole with the other plastic bag one layer thick. Totally seal the circumference of this hole and bag with sand. Now place a stone in the center, to made a depression in the bag over the cup. As the humidity condenses on the top bag the moisture beads up and rolls to the drip point and lands in the cup. Then you suck on the straw. Remember you can also soak the pit sand with what ever fluid you want as long as it has H2O in it, radiator fluid, wet dirt, mashed up weeds/foilage etc. or even your own.... After all, this is what the astronaut's life support systems do.
- **30 something sealed, wax dipped strike anywhere wooden matches**, wrapped with wax dipped paper. By the way, did you know you can start a camp fire with fine steel wool and your flashlight battery?
- **Pocket thermal space blanket.**
- **Chemical toe warmers**, about \$2.00 a pair at local sports stores, can be used as a warm compress or to save your cold toes, or fingers.
- You may have a big geode stuck in your mouth, and cannot yell for help, and it is night. One **phosphorescent snap and glow stick.**
- One of those Oval Green Rubber Snake bite kits.
- A **pocket card on CPR** Heat injuries, Shock, Burns, Fractures, Dislocations, Cold injuries, Bleeding etc... most fire depts and or hospitals have these free items. After all if you save your partner's life, he/she may give you their rock collection.
- One **safety pin**, for among many things, picking out things.
- One **candle.**
- **Pencil and 3X5" card.**
- some waterproof cloth type **Band-Aids**. And remember, if you are in the cold or damp climate, "COTTON KILLS". --- Did I forget anything?

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## Fossil Cleaning Tips

In most cases, when a fossil is cleaned, the surface is usually left with a dull or chalky look, even if you're very careful. This is caused by the abrasion of the tool against the fossil's surface.

In an effort to make the fossil look better, some collectors use the quick method, and cover their specimens with clear plastic sprays to bring out the appearance. These collections are easy to recognize because every specimen looks as if it is wet or dipped in plastic. The trouble with this method is, that it puts an unnatural, glossy appearance on the fossil, as well as the matrix, giving your specimen poor contrast.

In their natural state, fossils are not usually glossy, and professional museum preparators will tell you that making a fossil something it never was is poor practice. Clear sprays have a tendency to become cloudy over time, and the temptation to spruce up the collection by re-spraying specimens becomes a habit, which only puts more cloudy layers on the specimen. These coatings make photographing fossils difficult; they are very hard to remove, and will sometimes render specimens useless for scientific study.

A simple and common-sense way to get around these

problems is to use an alcohol soluble clear shellac. Just mix two parts shellac to eight parts alcohol. The ratio can vary slightly to suit personal tastes. This mixture will leave a pleasing, natural matte finish.

When using this method, make sure the fossil is clean of dust. With a small artist's brush, carefully coat only the fossil with the dilute shellac. This will reveal the specimen's actual color and allow the fossil to stand out against the natural matrix, giving excellent contrast. The more attention you give to coating delicate structures, the more beautiful the specimen will be. If you accidentally use too much - or if it runs on the matrix - just dip the brush in alcohol, and whisk the coating away. It dries in seconds.

Make no doubt about it, fossil collecting has become very sophisticated in recent years, and collections quickly prepared by obsolete or improper methods are now readily noticed by other collectors. For a good book on fossil preparation, I recommend the *Practical Paleontologist* by Steve Parker and Raymond I. Bernor, printed by Simon and Schuster.

*from PALEO Notes, Buy Darrough, Ed.: via Dinny's Doin's 11/96 and Pegmatite 6/97*

## ABC's of Field Trips

- A. Always have someone with you when you go rock hunting.
- B. Beware of strange animals when crossing fields and such.
- C. Carry a first aid kit and also a compass.
- D. Don't leave a group without letting someone know where you are going.
- E. Eating berries can be fatal unless you know they are safe.
- F. Fires are fine for camping, but be sure it is allowed and put it out when you are ready to leave.
- G. Goggles should be worn while you are chipping rock.
- H. Have proper wearing apparel for roughing it.
- I. If doubtful of poison oak or ivy, do not touch it or go near it.
- J. Jeopardize no one by taking foolish chances.
- K. Keep a snake bite kit handy in snake infested areas.
- L. Look before you leap over big holes or slippery rocks.
- M. Make sure not to stand on edges of vertical shafts or cliffs.
- N. Never go into an old mine shaft.
- O. Overloading your rock pack can put a kink in your back.
- P. Park so that cars can get by, do not block roadways.
- Q. Quick thinking sometimes averts tragedy.
- R. Respect property rights and all warning signs.
- S. Should there be children, make sure they are in plain sight.
- T. Take plenty of drinking water.
- U. Use rock hammers and picks with caution.
- V. Very careful in using flammable liquids to start fires.
- W. Watch for snakes and such.
- X. X-it quietly and with manners if asked to leave private property.
- Y. Your litter won't be appreciated if left behind.
- Z. Zippers hard to open or stuck in bedrolls? - use a bar of soap.

*from Tips & Trips - Georgia Mineral Society; via Lodestar - Southwest Federation, 3/84; The Tumbler - Marin Mineral Society; and The Calgary Lapidary Journal, 6/98.*